

2002 MCAS results

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In April and May 2002, students in grades three through ten completed testing in Reading, English/Language Arts, Mathematics, History/Social Studies, and Science/Technology. MCAS continues to provide clear data for program assessment, planning, and development, as well as a tool that parents, teachers and administrators can use to identify the strengths and weaknesses of each student.

The Shrewsbury Public Schools continued to perform well on the MCAS for 2002, ranking 26th of 212 school districts as reported by the *Boston Globe*. The rankings were compiled by aggregating the average scaled scores on the following tests: Grade 4 Language and Mathematics, Grade 6 Mathematics, Grade 7 Language, Grade 8 Mathematics and History, Grade 10 Language and Mathematics.

Shrewsbury's relative ranking of 26/212 in 2002 remaining essentially equal to the performance ranking of previous years, since many districts have scores that are tied or separated by only one or two points overall.

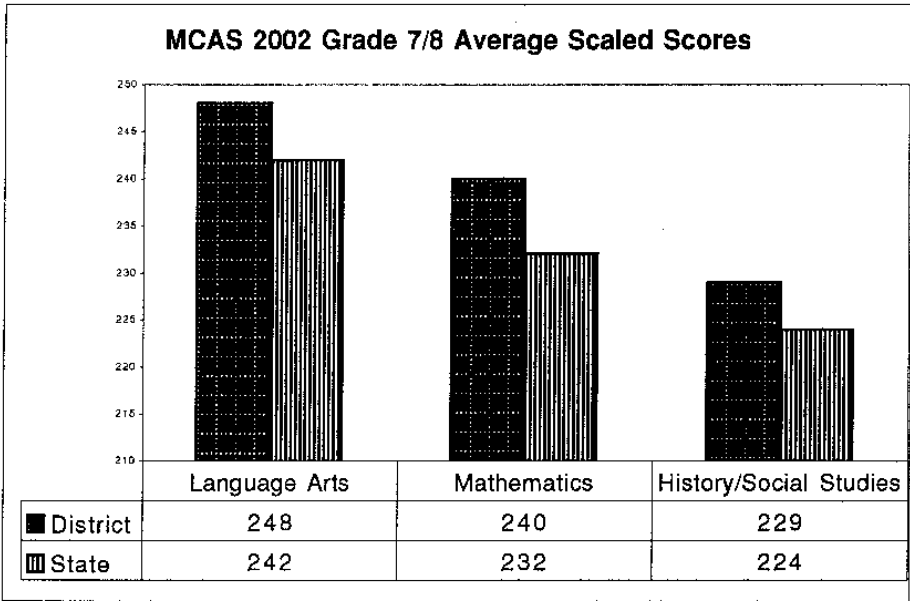
Year	Ranking
2002	26th of 212 districts
2001	24th of 211 districts
2000	19th of 208 districts
1999	22nd of 210 districts
1998	23rd of 210 districts

On almost every test the percentage of students scoring in the advanced or proficient performance levels increased. On most tests (Grade 4 Language Arts, Grade 4 Math, Grade 6 Math, Grade 8 Language Arts, Grade 8 Math, Grade 8 History, Grade 10 Language Arts) the percentage of students scoring in the warning/failing performance categories decreased. On the remaining tests (Grade 3 Reading, Grade 4 Math, Grade 8 History, Grade 10 Math, and Grade 8 Math) the percentage of stu-

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dents in the warning/failing performance categories increased only slightly. At grade ten, nearly all students met the competency requirement for graduation.

Some specific highlights are worth noting:



At the Elementary Level

Seventy-six percent of grade three students scored at the proficient performance level.

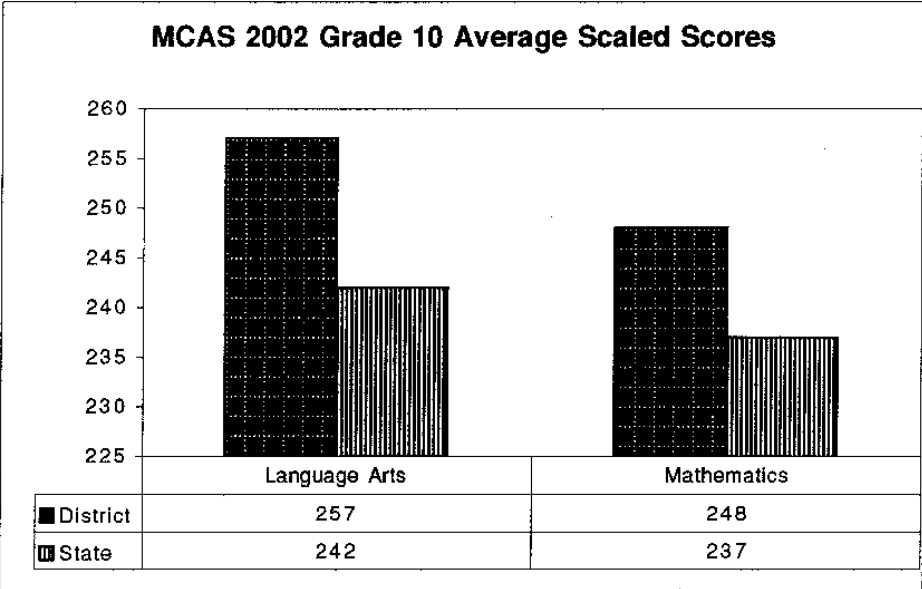
Only four percent of students in grade 3 scored on the warning category for the MCAS Reading test. While this represents a small number of students we will continue to provide appropriate interventions to help support their improvement.

In grade four, seventy-two percent of students scored proficient or advanced on the Language Arts MCAS test. This is an improvement of five percent from 2001 in the number of

cient or advanced on the MCAS language arts test. Only three percent scored in the warning category.

On the grade eight mathematics MCAS, fifty percent of students scored at the advanced or proficient level. Improving this result continues to be an area of focus for school department personnel.

History and social studies also continue to be an area of difficulty, with only nineteen percent of Shrewsbury students scoring in the advanced or proficient categories. Recent changes to the Massachusetts State curriculum frameworks in this area will lead to a re-defined K-12 social studies curricu-



students scoring in these categories.

In grade four mathematics, fifty-nine percent of the Shrewsbury students scored advanced or proficient. This is a seven-percent increase from 2001.

At the Middle School

In grade six, seventy-one percent of Shrewsbury students scored proficient or advanced on the MCAS mathematics test. This is a four-percent improvement from 2001 scores.

Seventy-eight percent of Shrewsbury seventh grade students scored profi-

lum for Shrewsbury for 2003-2004.

At the High School

All but two percent of Shrewsbury tenth grade students passed the language arts MCAS, with eighty-six percent scoring in the advanced or proficient categories. This places Shrewsbury students among the best in the state on this exam. The number of student scoring in the advanced category on the ELA in tenth grade also increased by thirteen percent from 2001 to 2002.

All but five percent of tenth grade students passed the MCAS mathematics exam, with sixty-five percent scoring in the proficient or advanced categories. The number of students scoring in the advanced category also increased by seven percent from 2001 to 2002.

The district has already taken steps to address issues identified through the initial analysis of the 2002 MCAS results, along with other measures used to evaluate the instructional program. We have applied for \$40,000 in state grant funds to run school-year and summer programs for MCAS remediation for 2002-2003.

As part of our planning efforts to assist students in improving their scores, we have created Individual

Student Success Plans for all students who scored in the warning or failing categories on the 2002 MCAS. These plans will involve parents, teachers, and administrators in a focused effort to help individual students address weaknesses in their skills as measured on the MCAS.

We have also acquired TestWiz software in order to analyze trends and track student progress over time. School department personnel will use this handy tool to assess patterns of strength and weakness at various grade levels and for individual students.

K-12 curriculum articulation teams in the areas of English/Language Arts, math, science/technology, and social studies have been convened for 2002-2003. These content-based curriculum teams began monthly meetings in October 2002 and will continue to analyze test results to further understand the future implications for our programs.

We are proud of the high level of success of the Shrewsbury Public Schools students on the 2002 MCAS and we remain committed to continuing this strong record in the years to come.

Phone numbers at your finger tips

Shrewsbury High School
(Grades 9-12)
841-8800
45 Oak Street
Principal- Daniel Gutekanst

Shrewsbury Middle School
(Grades 6-8)
841-8670
Sherwood Ave.
Principal- Stephen Lobban

Beal Early Childhood Center Preschool, Kindergarten, Grade 1
841-8860
One Maple Ave.
Principal- Judith Rogers

Coolidge School
(Grades1-5)
841-8880
Florence Street
Principal- Margery Clark

Floral Street School
(Grades1-5)
841-8720
Floral Street
Principal- Joseph Sawyer

Paton School (Grades1-5)
841-8626
Grafton Street
Principal- Linda Ferguson

Spring Street School
(Grades1-5)
841-8700
Spring Street
Principal- MaryBeth Banios